

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00985 121305Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4646

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0985

BRIDGETOWN FOR AIFLD ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GY

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF DR. ZIN HENRY TO CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKER
UNION (CCWU)

1. IN REMARKS TO ANNUAL TNINK-IN SEMINAR OF CCWU ON MAY 8
DR. ZIN HENRY, WHO HEADS CARIBBEAN OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), STRESSED THAT TRADES UNIONS MUST
ADAPT THEMSELVES TO CHANGING SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS IN CARIBBEAN. HENRY STATED THAT UNIONS MUST
EXAMINE WHETHER THEIR CONFRONTATIONAL ROLE WHICH HAD EMERGED
UNDER FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM CAN BE JUSTIFIED NOW THAT
COUNTRIES SUCH AS GUYANA AND JAMAICA HAVE A FULLY ENUNCIATED
AND PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED POLITICAL-ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF
SOCIALISM. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY,
HENRY MAINTAINED THAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN
COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAMAICA AND GUYANA HAD CHANGED ENOUGH
TO JUSTIFY A NEW METHODOLOGY FOR UNIONS WHICH HE
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00985 121305Z

LABELLED MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT. UNIONS
MUST CARVE OUT PATH WHICH THEY WILL FOLLOW RATHER THAN LET
GOVERNMENT IMPOSE IT THROUGH LEGISLATION. TO DO THIS
TRADES UNIONS MUST LOOK BEYOND VESTED INTEREST THEY HAVE
IN TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
MANAGEMENT AND LABOR. IN ORDER TO BOLSTER TRADE UNION
SECURITY AS THEY ADOPT NEW ROLE, LEGISLATION COULD BE

INTRODUCED REQUIRING COMPULSORY TRADES UNION MEMBERSHIP.
HENRY PRAISED CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING WITHOUT
SACRIFICING DEMOCRACY BUT WARNED THAT THIS PUT A BURDEN
ON UNIONS TO COOPERATE BY FORGING NEW ROLE COMMENSURATE
WITH CHANGES.

2. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION CCWU REPRESENTATIVES
POINTED OUT THAT GOG HAD NOT IMPLEMENTED DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST LABOR PRACTICES SUCH AS WORKER PARTICIPATION
AND HENRY CONCEDED THAT JAMAICA HAD GONE FARTHER THAN
GUYANA IN THIS RESPECT. CCWU MEMBERS FELT THAT
GOVERNMENT HAD NOT INVOLVED LABOR SUFFICIENTLY IN
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. GENERAL SENTIMENT WAS THAT
ALTHOUGH CCWU WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT
AND WAS NOT OPPOSED TO SOCIALISM IN PRINCIPLE, IT
FEELS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IMPORTANCE OF
INDEPENDENT MILITANT DEFENSE OF WORKERS' INTERESTS.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

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